

· PIONEER VENUS 12 SECOND ELECTRON TEMPERATURE DENSITY (UADS - LFD)

78-051A-01C

#658

PIONEER VENUS HI-RES NE (MIN 1-S) 78-051A-01D

PIONEER VENUS IONOP., BOWSH, LOC.; IPE-EUV 78-051A-001, 01E

PIONEER VENUS

12 - SECOND OETP (UADS-LFD)

78-051A-01C

THIS DATA SET CONSISTS OF ONE MAGNETIC TAPE. THE TAPE IS 9-TRACK 6250 BPI, ASCII, WITH ONE FILE OF DATA. THE TAPE WAS CREATED ON THE VAX, WITH A LABEL NAME OF "UATAPE". THE D AND C NUMBER ALONG WITH ITS TIMESPAN IS AS FOLLOWS:

D#	C#	FILES	TIMESPAN
D-072950	C-026283	1	12/05/78 - 10/07/92

To:

National Space Science Data Center

March 15, 1994

From: Larry H. Brace/914

Subject: Final submission of Unified Abstract Data from the Pioneer Venus Orbiter

Electron Temperature Probe

The accompanying tape is the final version of the low resolution measurements of electron temperature, Te, density, Ne, and spacecraft potential, Vs, from the PVOETP instrument on the Pioneer Venus Orbiter (PVO). These low resolution data are given at 12 second intervals and are known in the PVO community as the Unified Abstract Data (UADS). The tape is identical to one submitted recently to the Planetary Data System. It is intended to replace UADS tapes submitted earliler while the PVO mission was still in progress. The earlier tapes should be discarded or marked as obsolete, since they do not contain data from the last year or two of the mission, and the earlier data are less complete in other regards.

The attached documentation describes the OETP measurement approach, how the data were processed, and assesses the accuracy. You may distribute it to anyone who asks for the data from this instrument.

You may notice that the documentation refers to other OETP data products such as the ionopause file, the bowshock file, the solar EUV file, and the high resolution Ne file. Final versions of these data files have been submitted to the PDS and are to be committed to compact disc in the near future. I have lost track, however, of whether the NSSDC eventually gets these data in that form from the PDS, or are the PVO investigators supposed to send these other files on tape?

Please contact me at x6-8575 if you have any questions about the tape.

Sincerely,

Larry H. Brace Code 914

For format or call a 6362 of Rob Theis

!The following is a guide to interpreting the data in the !Pioneer Venus Unified Abstract Data System tape format. !The description lines all begin with a !

The first record gives the number of parameters followed by the 4 letter mnemonic for the parameter. In this particular case for the Electron Temperature Probe the parameters given are ELTE, the electron temperature in Deg. K, ELNE, the electron density in number/cc, and VS the spacecraft potential in volts.

3 ELTE ELNE VS

The second record contains the format which may be used to read tall of the remaining records.

(I8, I9, I5, I6, 3F11.2)

!The third record contains values which are used to indicate !that no measurement was available.

O O 0 9999999.00 9999999.00 9999999.00! The fourth record to the end are the data, consisting of the date in year and day of year, the UT in milliseconds, the lorbit number and the time from periapsis in seconds.

			L	· DOCOMAD.	
1978339 54454817	1	-228	9999999.00	574.00	-2.10
1978339 54550817	1	-132	5470.00	12900.00	-0.42
1978339 54682817	1	12		11800.00	-0.57
1978339 54814817	1	144	6900.00	1090.00	0.38
1978340 51262817	2	-444	9999999.00	243.00	2.84
1978340 51322817			8760.00	55800.00	-1.75
		~~	0100.00	00000.00	-1.70

TAPÉ LABEL MATAPE

VAX COPY FORMAT

1 FILE NAMED WATAPE. DAT

WHICH CONTAINS 93060 RECORDS

TAPE IS 9 TRACK 6250 DENSITY

INTRODUCTION

This document describes the various Orbiter Electron Temperature Probe (OETP) data products that have been submitted to the National Space Science Data Center and the Planetary Data System.

The OETP has been described by Krehbiel et al. (1980). The instrument uses two cylindrical Langmuir probes (axial and radial) which protrude into the surrounding plasma to measure the ionospheric electron density and temperature (N_e and T_e), the ion density (N_i), and the spacecraft potential, (V_s). The probes were operated independently by a common electronics unit. All of the data submitted here were derived from the radial probe, since its longer boom provided measurements over a wider range of N_e , a fact that caused the investigators to dedicate the limited telemetry allocation to that probe during most of the PVO mission. During the first 70 orbits, the axial probe was used more often, so many of these early orbits are not represented in the archived OETP data.

As an ionosphere instrument, the OETP was capable of accurate plasma measurements only while the spacecraft was within the ionosphere; an interval of only a few minutes during each 24 hour orbit. However, the Ne measurements made at higher altitudes have proved useful, so they are included in the High Resolution file which extend above the ionosphere. These data are useful for the study of smaller scale features and for identifying the location of the ionopause and the bow shock. measurements of photoelectron emission from the probe (net ion current in regions of very low Ne) have permitted the intensity of the solar EUV flux to be derived, and a file of daily values of this current is presented. Details of the plasma measurements method can be found in the Krehbiel et al. (1980) paper, and the method for solar EUV flux measurement is described by Brace et al.(1988). The data formats for these files are described at the end of this report. For further information on access to the OETP raw telemetry data please contact Robert Theis or Walter Hoegy, Code 914, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771. (301-286-3620, and 301-286-3837).

The OETP measurements have been used in many Venus investigations. Among these is a paper by Theis et al. (1984) who modelled the N_e and T_e data to describe the local time and altitude variations in the Venus ionosphere and their implications for nightward ion flow. Brace et al.

(1987, 1990) used the OETP data to examine the nightside ionosphere out to very high altitudes. A more complete bibliography publications by the OETP investigators is given at the end of this document.

TYPES OF OETP DATA Products

Five types of OETP data files are available in the NSSDC and PDS. These are described briefly in this section. More details on the measurements and their accuracies are provided in later sections.

(1) The UADS. The Unified Abstract Data System, UADS, was conceived as a file which would combine the data from all of the PVO in situ instruments on a common time base to facilitate analysis. The temporal resolution of 12 seconds was adopted since it was approximately equal to the spin period of the satellite which for most instruments determined the spatial resolution of the measurements. The OETP input to the UADS includes measurements of Ne, Te, and Vs, based on computer fitting of individual voltampere curves. Since the curves were recovered at rates either higher of lower than the UADS rate of 12 seconds, the value of the parameter at the UADS entry times had to be obtained by interpolation from nearby measurements. When the spacecraft data rate was very low not all UADS 12 second time slots were filled to avoid interpolation over too large an interval.

UADS measurements are only provided when the spacecraft is in the ionosphere and the density exceeds a threshold that depends on various experimental background factors, such as spacecraft photoemission, spacecraft charging, and electrical shielding of the probe by the spacecraft ion sheath. For this reason, the UADs is not the best source of information on the ionopause and its density gradients. These feasures are better resolved in the High Resolution Ne file that is described next.

(2) The High Resolution N_e File. These data are based on measurements of the electron saturation current or the ion saturation current taken from as many voltampere curves as the telemetry data rate permitted. Since N_e is assumed equal to N_i everywhere in the ionosphere, either can be used as a measure of N_e . The ion current is used at high densities ($N_i>4\times10^4$ cm⁻³) and the electron current is used at lower densities. Typically, 4 to 8 high resolution density samples are obtained in the interval between recovered voltampere curves, although this ratio is bit rate dependent. This provides N_e and N_i measurements at much smaller intervals than is possible from the voltampere curves themselves. High resolution measurements are

typically available at 2 to 8 second intervals depending upon the telemetry rate available to the OETP at the time.

The measurements in the High Resolution N_e file are given for a one hour period centered on periapsis, in spite of the fact that the spacecraft may be outside the ionosphere for much of this interval. The measurements made outside the ionosphere are heavily spin modulated by spacecraft photoelectrons, but they are included because they show the ionopause density gradient and other real N_e structure that lies above the ionosphere (such as; bow shocks, plasma clouds, magnetosheath electron fluxes, spacecraft photoelectron densities, etc). These features are not generally found in the UADS file which only contains measurements made within the ionosphere. More information on the High Resolution N_e measurements, and their limitations is contained in the section on measurement accuracy.

- (3) The Ionopause File. This file gives the orbit-by-orbit times and locations of the ionopause crossings, which are evident as sharp gradients in N_e at the top of the ionosphere. (These crossings always occur within 30 minutes of periapsis, so they may be seen in the High Resolution N_e files).
- (4) The Bow Shock File. This file gives the orbit-by-orbit times and locations of the bow shock crossings, which are characterized by distinct changes in N_e. Multiple shock crossing are listed if they are sufficiently separated to be resolved accurately. (Bow shock crossings will be evident in the High Resolution N_e File only when they occurred within 30 minutes of periapsis). The bow shock crossings are usually obtained from pass plots that extend 100 minutes either side of periapsis, but these plots have not been archived since there is little else of value in them.
- (5) The Solar EUV Daily Values File. This file gives the magnitude of the photoemission current from the radial probe, I_{pe} , (in units of 10^{-9} amps) which is directly proportional to the total solar ionizing flux. I_{pe} dominates the ion current measurements outside the Venusian ionosphere, making possible the serendipitous measurement of the total solar EUV flux. The latter is an important parameter because solar EUV is the main source of ionization and heating for the Venusian thermosphere and ionosphere. The method is discussed by Brace et al., (1988).

The pe current measurements are taken just before PVO leaves the solar wind and enters the magnetosheath (usually an hour or two before periapsis). This approach provides a measure of the solar EUV flux that the Venus thermosphere was receiving just before the periapsis measurements

were taken. The maximum value of the spin modulated I_{pe} is taken because it corresponds to a probe orientation perpendicular to the Sun when the maximum area of the probe is exposed to the Sun. I_{pe} is proportional to the intensity of the ionizing component of solar radiation, so it is possible to derive the total solar EUV (and far UV) flux. Ly alpha contributes approximately half of the I_{pe} while nearly all of the rest is produced by radiation between 200 A and 1200 A which ionizes, excites and dissociates thermospheric neutrals. The equation for the conversion of I_{pe} to solar EUV total flux is described later.

Raw Data Tapes

The OETP raw telemetry data were provided by the PV Project on tapes called Experiment Data Records (EDRs); one tape for each of the approximately 5000 orbits. To conserve storage space, the EDRs were compacted onto 6250 bpi magnetic tapes, each containing the data from 40 to 50 consecutive orbits. These compacted EDRs are now stored at Goddard Space Flight Center, and the original EDRs were returned to NASA for reuse. There is no current plan for submission of the 100 or so compacted tapes to the NSSDC or the PDS for longer term storage, but they are available if such a plan arises. There is a tentative plan to further condense the raw OETP data onto optical disks for ease of storage and permanence. (For further information on the current status of the raw data, contact Walter R. Hoegy or Robert F. Theis, Code 910, NASA/GSFC, Greenbelt, MD 20771, phone 301-286-3837 or 286-3620).

Voltampere Curves

Note that raw voltampere curves are not included in the NSSDC and PDS data submissions; only the analyzed products of curve fitting. The curves themselves can only be obtained by accessing the OETP compacted magnetic tapes and applying appropriate computer codes that strip out the These data products are not usually curves from the OETP bit stream. archived by the data centers. This is unfortunate because we have found the curves to be rather useful in unanticipated ways. For example, small scale Ne structure has been discovered as wavelike modulation of the voltampere curves (see reference 80 at end of report). Also, nonelectron energy distributions are seen sometimes maxwellian nonexponential electron retarding regions. (See Walter Hoegy or Robert Theis at NASA/GSFC for information on the OETP raw data base and the necessary programs to access the curves).

MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OETP DATA FILES

The UADS File

This file gives the Ne, Te and Vs measurements derived by fitting the radial probe voltampere curves taken whenever PVO was within the ionosphere (ie., between the inbound and outbound ionopause crossings). essentially every orbit in 1979 to the middle of 1980 included ionosphere transits. After the summer of 1980, however, there was insufficient fuel to maintain periapsis at low altitudes, and it began to rise slowly. 1981 periapsis was above the altitude of the dayside ionopause, so the spacecraft encountered the ionosphere only in the terminator regions and on the nightside where the ionosphere extends to much higher altitudes. Dayside measurements again became available early in 1992 when periapsis returned to low enough altitudes. The PVO Entry period between July and October 1992 provided only nightside periapsis data. During the intervening period (1981-91), only nightside UADS measurements in the high altitude (altitudes ~500-3000 km) ionosphere were available. that High Resolution Ne data from the 1981-91 interval provide measurements in the dayside magnetosheath and in the solar wind, but these data have limited accuracy because of spacecraft photoelectron contributions. See Brace et al, 1988 (ref. 53) in the bibliography for further details on the interpretation of High Resolution measurements made outside the ionosphere.

As noted earlier, the geophysical values are listed at 12 second intervals in the UADS. Each OETP entry represents a time-weighted average of those radial probe measurements taken within approximately 10 seconds of the UADS-assigned times. If no voltampere curves were recovered within that 20 second interval (this occurs at very low spacecraft telemetry rates), no UADS value is entered in that 12 second slot. The instrument actually takes voltampere curves at a rate of 120/minute, but telemetry rate limitations permit the recovery of raw voltampere curves at intervals between 4 to 32 seconds, depending upon the telemetry rate and spacecraft data format currently in use.

The N_e values in the UADS file may actually be based on either the ion or electron current collected by the probe, depending upon the magnitude of the density at the time. The radial probe electron currents saturate the electrometer when $N_e > 4 \text{x} 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, so it is necessary to switch over to N_i measurements at that point. Since the ion currents are about a factor of 50 smaller, the N_i measurements can be made up to densities of about 2 x 106

cm⁻³, much greater than is present anywhere in the Venus ionosphere. We assume that $N_i = N_e$ everywhere in the ionosphere, so either may be used to construct the UADS file. To minimize the discontinuities at the N_e/N_i switch-over point due to systematic measurement errors, N_e is normalized to N_i using a small universal correction factor. This factor is 0.7, and is based on comparisons of the overlapping N_e and N_i measurements from many individual orbits.

There are good theoretical reasons to believe that the Ni measurements are inherently more accurate at densities exceeding 3 or $4x10^4$ cm⁻³, so this normalization approach improves the accuracy of the Ne measurements. The N; measurements become less accurate at lower densities because of uncertain changes in the ion composition, ion drift velocity, and a positive ion current component produced by photoelectrons (Ipe) leaving the probe. Ipe becomes comparable to the true ion currents at Ni of approximately The pe currents produce a spin modulated signal that is $1 \times 10^{4} \text{cm}^{-3}$. modelled using measurements made in the solar wind just prior to the bow shock crossing where the ambient densities are too small to produce This spin modulated Ine waveform, whose detectable ion currents. amplitude may differ from orbit to orbit because of solar EUV variations, is subtracted from the net positive current measurements made in the subsequent ionospheric passage. This subtraction gives the true ion current which is directly convertible to Ni. The spin maximum Ipe for each orbit is also used to construct the solar EUV file, as is described later.

Because of the low spatial resolution of the UADS, and the fact that only ionosphere data are included, this file is not the best source of information about the ionopause. Features such as the ionopause, and plasma clouds above the ionopause, are resolved better using the High Resolution Data File which is not restricted to measurements within the ionosphere. This file is discussed next.

High Resolution Ne File

The High Resolution file provides measurements of N_e (or N_i) within 30 minutes either side of periapsis at somewhat higher resolution than is possible from the voltampere curves, however, these measurements are less accurate. The accuracy is especially reduced when the spacecraft is outside the ionosphere, where N_e is typically well below 100 cm⁻³. In sunlight, spacecraft photoelectron densities at the radial probe location are of the order of 30-50 cm⁻³. In darkness, the N_e measurements can be made down to densities of about 2 cm⁻³ because the pe background is

absent. However, the measurements made in the Venus umbra are often degraded at low densities because of the presence of hot electrons that charge the spacecraft to potentials that lie beyond the range of the OETP sweep voltage. This makes it impossible to drive the probe positive with In addition, deBye shielding causes the respect to the plasma potential. probe to become enveloped in the ion sheath of the spacecraft at very low densities, further reducing its access to the ambient ionospheric plasma. Empirically derived corrections for this effect have been applied to the high resolution data in order to provide at least a lower limit on the true value of N_e, but the errors could exceed a factor of 2 at densities below 10 cm⁻³. When the electron current is too small to be read, no value of Ne is entered and a gap appears in the file. When the electron current at maximum positive voltage is readable but is less than a certain very low value an Ne value of 2 cm⁻³ is entered in the High Resolution file simply to serve as an upper limit on Ne, and to show that data were actually being taken (not a gap in the telemetry data).

In summary, the high resolution N_e measurements provide about a factor of 8 higher resolution than the UADS file whose resolution is limited by the recovery rate of raw voltampere curves. Therefore the high resolution data better resolve such small scale features as the ionopause and the plasma clouds often found above the ionopause. Also, the UADS densities often stop somewhere within the ionopause density gradient, so this feature can best be resolved using the High Resolution data. However, certain artifacts have not been removed from the data, so one must be careful not of overinterpret them. The most important of these is a (usually small) jump discontinuity in N_e when the spacecraft enters or leaves the umbra where the spacecraft potential changes drastically. (See section on accuracy)

Ionopause and Bow Shock Crossings

The ionopause and bow shock crossing times and locations are easily identified in the high resolution N_e measurements (Theis et al., 1980). These files contain the UT, altitude, latitude, SZA and local time of each crossing.

On the dayside, the ionopause is taken (somewhat arbitrarily) at the level in the steep gradient of the ionopause where $N_e = 1 \times 10^2$ cm⁻³. On the nightside, the ionopause is selected at somewhat lower densities because the absence of spacecraft photoelectrons lowers the N_e measurement threshold. In both cases, the intent is to identify the ionopause as the point where the first rise of N_e above the background density occurs. Of course,

the ionopause itself is not a point but is the extend region in which the ionopause density gradient occurs.

The bow shock is a much more discrete feature in the data than the Multiple shock crossings sometimes occur because the shock often moves at higher velocities than the satellite. In these cases, only the outermost shock crossing is recorded, unless the separation between the crossings is greater than a minute or two. The occurrence of multiple shocks in the Bow Shock File provides a record of the orbits in which the solar wind itself was probably highly variable. Because of the geometry of the orbit, most shock crossings were in the range of 45° to 135° SZA. However, the nose region of the shock was explored between 1985 and 1987 when PVO periapsis was near the equator and was at altitudes between 2000 and 2300 km. During these years near solar minimum the nose of the shock often moved down into that altitude range (Russell et al, During the subsolar passages of these years, the orbit approximately paralleled the shock, sometimes inside, sometimes outside, thus providing interesting snapshots of its movements.

Solar EUV Daily Values

This file contains the daily average value of the photoelectron emission current, I_{pe} , from the radial probe, usually measured about 1 hr before periapsis. The I_{pe} values are given in units of 10^{-9} amperes. The data cover the interval from 1979 through early 1992 when periapsis got low enough to cause photoelectric yield changes that have not been fully resolved and corrected for appropriately.

The daily I_{pe} measurements can be converted into the total solar EUV flux (V_{EUV}) using the following the equation given by Brace et al., (1988),

$$V_{EUV} = 1.53 \times 10^{11} I_{pe}$$
 (photons/cm²/s)

 $V_{\rm EUV}$ varied over the mission from a low of about 8 x 10^{11} to 20 x 10^{11} ph/cm²/s, including the solar cycle and solar rotation components. $V_{\rm EUV}$ represents the total solar flux, weighted by the known wavelength-dependent yield of the collector. A standard Hinteregger solar EUV/UV spectrum is assumed to derive the coefficient that relates $I_{\rm pe}$ to the toal photon flux, but the measurement is relatively insensitive to this assumption over the typical range of variations observed in the solar spectrum.

The $V_{\rm EUV}$ data have been useful in the study of solar EUV effects on the ion production and electron heating rates in the Venus ionosphere. VEUV variations have been correlated with changes in the density and temperature of the ionosphere (Elphic et al., 1984), the height of the bow shock (Alexander et al., 1985, Russell et al., 1988), and changes in the density and temperature of the thermosphere (Mahajan et al., 1990).

DATA QUALITY/ACURACY

UADS Accuracy

The UADS data are based on operator-assisted voltampere curve fits. absolute accuracy of the data depends primarily upon the accuracy of the Langmuir probe theory (Krehbiel, et al., 1980) and our success in avoiding the inclusion of data from curves that were obtained in situations in which the theory does not apply (e.g., probe in wake of the telemetry antenna, very low densities, pe contamination, spacecraft potential too negative, etc.). Where these effects have been avoided, the errors in Te should not exceed 5% when N_e exceeds 500 cm⁻³ in sunlight and about 30 cm⁻³ in However, Te errors may be larger in regions of great spatial structure where the plasma parameters change while they are being measured, or in regions where the electron energy distribution is These conditions are nonmaxwellian or appears to have two temperatures. often found in the nightside ionosphere and at the ionopause. cases, the curve-fitting is done so as to measure the temperature of the lower temperature component of the plasma. The curves would have to be refitted to obtain information on the higher temperature component.

The accuracy of the N_e measurements is determined by the accuracy of the N_i measurements to which they are normalized by a fixed factor that was determined by comparisons at densities in the vicinity of 4 x 10⁴ cm⁻³. Therefore the N_e accuracy is nominally 10%, but the error increases at low densities where pe background and/or spacecraft charging effects can be important, as described earlier. N_e is given in the UADS file for densities down to 2 cm⁻³ and T_e for densities down to 10 cm⁻³, which are observed only in the nightside ionosphere and ionotail. The N_e error is expected to grow as the density approaches these limits, but the T_e measurements are less subject to error at low densities because knowledge of Vs is not needed to obtain the temperature. In spite of the reduced accuracy, N_e measurements below 30 cm⁻³ are retained in the UADS file because they do reflect real variations that may be of interest even when their absolute accuracy may be uncertain by a factor of 2 or more. Examples include the

detection of weak ionospheric tail rays and plasma clouds (Brace et al., 1987).

The error in N_i is not expected to exceed 10% at densities above 4 x10⁴ cm⁻³. N_e is used for densities below 4 x10⁴ cm⁻³. As noted earlier, N_e is normalized to N_i at their overlap point to gain the greater inherent accuracy of the ion measurements. The normalization factor is based on the overlapping N_e and N_i measurements from many orbits, and the factor does not change throughout the mission. Therefore, small discontinuities in the density measurement may sometimes be seen at the crossover point if ionospheric conditions lead to unusual spacecraft potentials, ion compositions, or other factors that are assumed constant when adopting a fixed relationship between the ion and electron currents. We assume that the normalization factor remains constant over the full range of N_e , and this may not be correct.

High Resolution File Accuracy

In general, the high resolution N_e measurements have a lower absolute accuracy than the UADS (voltampere curve) measurements because factors such as the spacecraft potential and T_e are not available to calculate N_e more precisely. To reduce such errors in the high resolution data, they are normalized to the voltampere curve measurements. This normalization is entirely different from the N_e - N_i normalization employed in deriving the UADS data.

Another source of error in the High Resolution N_e measurements is the jump discontinuities that occur when the spacecraft passes from sunlight to shadow. An abrupt change in spacecraft potential occurs at that point, and this changes the probe voltage which is referenced to the spacecraft. The N_e measurements cannot easily be corrected for this change because they are not based on voltampere curves but measurements at a fixed positive potential. Therefore a discontinuity may occur in N_e at the sunlight-shadow boundary if N_e is sufficiently low that spacecraft photoelectron emission affects the spacecraft potential.

The precision of the high resolution data is probably somewhat better than that of the UADS data because the latter may suffer from the effects of volt ampere curve distortion due to small scale density variations and spin effects which do not show up in the single point samples used in the high resolution measurements. This feature makes the high resolution data more valuable in resolving small scale, and small amplitude plasma structure.

Ionopause Location Accuracy

The ionopause location is selected at that point in the steep gradient of the ionopause where N_e crosses through the level of $1x10^2$ cm⁻³. When the spacecraft is in darkness, the pe background is absent and the ionospheric N_e is also much lower, so the ionopause is identified as the first rise in N_e above whatever background is present. The ionopause is identified by a human operator who views each high resolution N_e pass plot on an interactive computer terminal. He selects the ionopause somewhat subjectively as the time of the first rise above the background N_e, which may consist of magnetosheath plasma or photoelectrons. The 40 minute pass plots used for this purpose provide only a 5-10 second accuracy in the crossing times. When irregularities or waviness in the ionopause produce

several ionopause crossings, the outer most crossing is the only one identified.

Bow Shock Location Accuracy

The bow shock is selected from 200 minute pass plots by marking the UT of the sharp change in the amplitude of N_e at the shock discontinuity. The resolution of the shock crossing time is of the order of 1 minute on these plots, but this could be improved to a few seconds if expanded plots were used. There is no plan currently to provide the ultimate resolution available in bow shock crossing time and location.

The solar EUV measurement accuracy

The I_{pe} measurements themselves are made with an absolute accuracy of 1 to 2%, depending upon where the current falls within the decade range of the ranging electrometer. The absolute accuracy of the measurements is also limited by our knowledge of the photoelectric yield of the radial probe collector, and our assumption that a Hinteregger standard EUV/UV spectrum is applicable at the time of the PVO measurements. We estimate a 10% absolute accuracy in the total EUV flux and a 1 to 2% relative accuracy or precision provided by the accuracy of the current measurements themselves. See Brace et al.(1988) for details of the method.

FORMAT OF THE FILES

The following is a guide to reading the data in the Pioneer Venus Unified Abstract Data System tape format. The first record gives the number of parameters, followed by the 4 letter mnemonic that identifies the parameter. The parameters given are ELTE (T_e in units of Deg. K), ELNE, (N_e in number/cc), and VS (Vs in volts) in following format

3 ELTE ELNE VS

The second record contains the format which may be used to read all of the remaining records.

(18, 19, 15, 16, 3F11.2)

The third record contains values which are used to indicate that no measurement was available.

```
0 0 9999999.00 9999999.00 9999999.00
```

The fourth record to the end of the file, consists of the date (year and day of year), the UT (milliseconds), the orbit number and the time from periapsis (in seconds). The last three columns are T_e, N_e, and Vs.

```
-2.10
                                          574.00
                      -228 9999999.00
1978339 54454817
                                                      -0.42
                                        12900.00
                      -132
                              5470.00
1978339 54550817
                                                      -0.57
                                        11800.00
                              3960.00
1978339 54682817
                       12
                                                      0.38
                              6900.00
                                      1090.00
1978339 54814817
                  1
                      144
                                                      2.84
                  2 -444 9999999.00
                                         243.00
1978340 51262817
                                                      -1.75
                                        55800.00
1978340 51322817
                   2 -384
                              8760.00
```

The next file contains ionopause crossing information. This file is formatted for printing and is self explanatory.

ORBIT	DATE P	ERIAPSIS			INBOUND CRO	SSING			OUT	BOUND CROSSI	NG	
GILLI		HH:MM:SS	SECS	HH:MM:SS	LAT LST	ALT	SZA	SECS	HH:MM:SS	LAT LST	ALT	SZA
1		15:11:12	54409	15: 6:49	39.7 15.6	601.	63.4	54884	15:14:44	1.5 16.4	522.	66.2
2	78340	14:21:42	51276	14:14:36	52.1 15.2	832.	66.4	52130	14:28:50		834.	72.9
3	78341	14:31:46	51971	14:26:11	45.9 15.6	579.	66.2	52690	14:38:10		687.	73.7
4	78342	14:40:12	52272	14:31:12	59.6 14.9	1110.	69.5	53271	14:47:51	-18.7 17.1	867.	77.1

The next file contains bowshock crossing information. This file is formatted for printing and is self explanatory.

ORBIT	DATE PERIAPSIS	INBOUND CROSSING	OUTBOUND CROSSING
VILLE	HH:MM:SS	SECS HH:MM:SS LAT LST ALT SZ	A SECS HH:MM:SS LAT LST ALT SZA
1	78339 15:11:12	51512 14:18:32 43.9 5.4 12044. 100.	
2	78340 14:21:42	49079 13:37:59 49.1 5.8 9899. 96.	1 0 0:0:0 0.0 0.0 0. 0.0
3	78341 14:31:46	50202 13:56:42 56.3 6.3 7725. 91.3	
4	78342 14:40:12	49872 13:51:12 45.1 5.8 11284. 96.	2 57078 15:51:18 -67.8 2.0 16416. 109.1

The next file contains Venus Solar Flux information in the form of I_{pe} values in units of 10^{-9} amperes.. This file is formatted for printing and is self explanatory. The total solar EUV flux (V_{EUV}) is derived by multiplying by the factor given in the equation presented earlier.

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0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
Dates 78339-78348 Orbits
                        1- 10 ipe
                                                                      0.00 0.00 0.00
Dates 78349-78358 Orbits
                       11-
                           20 ipe
                                                  0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
                                   0.00 0.00 0.00
                                   0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 10.30
                                                           0.00 0.00
Dates 78359-79003 Orbits
                       21- 30 ipe
                                   0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
Dates 79004-79013 Orbits
                       31- 40 ipe
                                   0.00 10.30 0.00 0.00 0.00 10.30 10.02 10.02 0.00 10.02
                       41- 50 ipe
Dates 79014-79023 Orbits
                       Dates 79024-79033 Orbits
                                   0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 10.98 11.19
                       61- 70 ipe
Dates 79034-79043 Orbits
                       71- 80 ipe 11.03 11.19 10.34 9.74 10.39 11.40 11.61 0.00 11.40 10.78
Dates 79044-79053 Orbits
                       81- 90 ipe 9.52 0.00 9.70 10.11 9.97 0.00 9.97 9.65 0.00 9.52
Dates 79054-79063 Orbits
                       91- 100 ipe 9.70 10.39 10.54 10.59 10.78 10.83 10.98 10.88 10.83 0.00
Dates 79064-79073 Orbits
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78-0512-010

The Orbiter Electron Temperature Probe (OETP) LFDF Files

PROPOSED PIONEER VENUS NSSDC LOW-FREQUENCY DATA FORMAT

This document describes a suggested format to be used by all investigators for the submission of their data to the National Space Sciences Data Center. The overall specification will require that all data be coded into ASCII, and written onto standard ½-inch 1600-bpi 9-track tapes. The logical record length will be fixed for a given tape, as well as the physical blocksize. Blocksizes should be large enough to avoid wasting tape, but should not exceed 8000 bytes in order to avoid making excessive demands on user programs for memory. The first three records of any of these tapes will be formatted as follows.

Record 1: The format to be used is (!3,n(1X,A4)) where "n" is the number of data items in each record.

Example 1: The first record in each tape file. Note that new value types with new 4-character designations can be added as necessary.

Record 2: This record contains the format in which all succeeding records are written. The first 4 format items specify the date, time, orbit, and time tag, and will appear in the same format on all tapes.

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(18,19,15,16,4F9.2) (Appropriate for OETP)
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Example 2: The second record in each tape file.

Record 3: This record will contain zeroes for the first four fields (date, time, orbit, and time-tag), and in addition will have a fill value in each data value location. This value will be used by any program reading the data to identify fill data in subsequent input records.

Example 3: The third record in each tape file. (Appropriate for OETP).

Record 4 to .: These records contain the date, time, orbit, and time-tag for each time which has any non-fill data.

Example 4: All records after the third in a tape file. (Appropriate for OETP).

As can be inferred from the above example, the date is coded as YEAR, DAY with the 19 included in the year. The time is in milliseconds, orbit number is self-explanatory, and the time tag is the usual value ranging from -1800 to 1800 in increments of 12.

The project-provided tape of SEDR information would be the source of the official dates and times to be used by all other investigators.

Nothing in the above format would preclude investigators from producing a tape containing the data from more than one experiment.

The external label on the tape should be type-written, and contain the following information:

- Full name of experiment data contained on tape. 1

- Start date, time, and orbit number of data on the tape.
 Stop date, time, and orbit number of data on the tape.
 Production date of the tape.
 The density (1600-bpi) and number of tracks (9) at which the tape was recorded.
- An estimate of the amount of tape used.
- The physical blocksize used in writing the tape.
- A name and phone number of the individual responsible for the tape.

¹ Example: "Pioneer Venus Orbiter Electron Temperature Probe".

ASCII LIST OF \$1\$MUA0: UATAPE.DAT

ECORD 1 16 BYTES

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ASCII LIST OF \$1\$MUA0: UATAPE.DAT

RECORD 1 16 BYTES

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RECORD 2 20 BYTES

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ASCII LIST OF \$1\$MUAO: UATAPE.DAT

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PIONEER VENUS

IONOP., BOWSH. LOC., IPE-EUV

THIS DATA SET CONSISTS OF 3 TAPES. THESES TAPES ARE 9-TRACK, 6250 BPI, VAXED LABELED, WITH 3 FILES OF DATA AND CREATED ON AN IBM 360 COMPUTER. THE DD AND THE DC NUMBERS ALONG WITH THEIR TIME SPANS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

DD#	DC#	ORBITS	TIME SPANS
D-85876	C-29103	0001-1000	12/05/78 - 09/01/81
D-85877	C-29104	1001-2000	09/02/81 - 06/01/84
D-85878	C-29105	2001-3000	06/02/84 - 12/01/87

VOLUME LABLES

D-85876=VOL100001

D-85877=VOL101001

D-85878=VOL102001

Listing of save set(s)

[THEIS]OUT0016.DAT;1

[THEIS]OUT0017.DAT;1 [THEIS OUT 0018 DAT: 1

0 85876 C 29103 OUT0001.BCK Save set: THEIS Written by: [000161,000002] BACK/LOG/LIS=OUT0001.LIS SCRATCH\$X2:[THEIS]*.DAT MSA0:OUT0001.BCK/INTER/LAB=00001 UIC: Date: Command: VAX/VMS version V5.4 Operating system: V5.4 BACKUP version: 01380B0B CPU ID register: _PACF:: Node name: _PACF\$MSA0: Written on: 8192 Block size: 10 Group size: 43 Buffer count: 18-SEP-1991 16:56 18 18-SEP-1991 16:58 [THEIS]OUT0001.DAT;1 20 18-SEP-1991 16:59 [THEIS]OUT0002.DAT;1 18-SEP-1991 17:00 [THEIS]OUT0003.DAT;1 20 18-SEP-1991 17:01 [THEIS]OUT0004.DAT;1 18-SEP-1991 17:01 THEIS OUT0005.DAT;1 18-SEP-1991 17:01 THEIS OUT 0006. DAT; 1 18-SEP-1991 17:01 THEIS OUT 007 . DAT; 1 [THEIS]OUT0008.DAT;1 18-SEP-1991 17:02 а [THEIS]OUT0009.DAT;1 18-SEP-1991 17:03 18-SEP-1991 17:04 [THEIS]OUT0010.DAT;1 18-SEP-1991 17:05 [THEIS]OUT0011.DAT;1 18-SEP-1991 17:05 [THEIS]OUT0012.DAT;1 [THEIS]OUT0013.DAT;1 18-SEP-1991 17:06 18-SEP-1991 17:07 [THEIS]OUT0014.DAT;1 0 18-SEP-1991.17:08 [THEIS]OUT0015.DAT;1 18-SEP-1991 17:09

11

18-SEP-1991 17:10

D85817 029101

```
_isting of save set(s)
                                               OUT1001.BCK
Save set:
Written by:
                                              THEIS
[000161,000002]
[16-SEP-1991 17:18:54.51
BACK/LOG/DEN=6250/LIS=OUT1001.LIS SCRATCH$X2:[THEIS]*.DAT MSA0:OUT1001.BCK/INTER/LAB=VAX/VMS version V5.4
UIC:
Command:
Operating system:
                                              V5.4
01380B0B
_PACF::
_PACF$MSA0:
BACKUP version:
CPU ID register:
Node name:
 Written on:
                                               8192
Block size:
Group size:
                                               10
 Buffer count:
                                                                                                                                                         13-SEP-1991 22:05
13-SEP-1991 22:07
13-SEP-1991 22:08
  [THEIS]OUT1001.DAT;1
 THEIS JOUT1002. DAT;1
[THEIS JOUT1002. DAT;1
[THEIS JOUT1003. DAT;1
[THEIS JOUT1004. DAT;1
[THEIS JOUT1005. DAT;1
[THEIS JOUT1006. DAT;1
[THEIS JOUT1007. DAT;1
                                                                                                                                                 33
72
                                                                                                                                                           13-SEP-1991 22:09
                                                                                                                                                           13-SEP-1991 22:11
13-SEP-1991 22:12
                                                                                                                                                          13-SEP-1991 22:13
                                                                                                                                                  35
                                                                                                                                                           13-5EP-1991 00:55
16-SEP-1991 00:56
16-SEP-1991 00:56
16-SEP-1991 00:57
16-SEP-1991 00:58
16-SEP-1991 00:58
 [THEIS]OUT1993.DAT;1
[THEIS]OUT1994.DAT;1
[THEIS]OUT1995.DAT;1
[THEIS]OUT1996.DAT;1
[THEIS]OUT1997.DAT;1
[THEIS]OUT1998.DAT;1
[THEIS]OUT1998.DAT;1
[THEIS]OUT1999.DAT;1
[THEIS]OUT2000.DAT;1
                                                                                                                                                  0
22
```

Total of 999 files, 59332 blocks End of save set

17

16-SEP-1991 01:00 16-SEP-1991 01:00

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D-85878
                    OUT2001 . BCK
Save set:
                    THEIS
Written by:
                    [000161,000002]
                    BACK/LOG/LIS=OUT0001.LIS SCRATCH$X2:[THEIS] . DAT MSA0:OUT2001.BCK/INTER/LAB=02001
UIC:
Date:
Command:
                    VAX/VMS version V5.4
Operating system:
                     V5.4
BACKUP version:
                     01380B0B
CPU ID register:
                     _PACF::
Node name:
                     PACF$MSA0:
Written on:
                     8192
Block size:
                     10
 Group size:
 Buffer count:
                                                                    19-FEB-1992 17:36
                                                                    19-FEB-1992 17:36
 [THEIS]OUT2001.DAT;1
                                                                    19-FEB-1992 17:36
  THEIS OUT 2002 . DAT ; 1
                                                                    19-FEB-1992 17:37
  [THEIS]OUT2003.DAT;1
                                                                    19-FEB-1992 17:38
  THEIS]OUT2004.DAT;1
                                                                    19-FEB-1992 17:39
  [THEIS]OUT2005.DAT;1
                                                                    19-FEB-1992 17:40
  [THEIS]OUT2006.DAT;1
                                                                    19-FEB-1992 17:52
  [THEIS]OUT2007.DAT:1
                                                                    19-FEB-1992 17:52
  THEIS OUT 2033. DAT; 1
                                                                    19-FEB-1992 17:52
  [THEIS]OUT2034.DAT;1
                                                                     19-FEB-1992 17:53
   THEIS]OUT2035.DAT;1
                                                                 1
   THEIS OUT 2036 . DAT; 1
                                                                     19-FEB-1992 17:54
                                                                     19-FEB-1992 17:55
 _ [HEIS]OUT2037.DAT:1
   THEIS]OUT2038.DAT;1
                                                                      3-MAR-1992 18:29
                                                                 13
                                                                      3-MAR-1992 18:30
   THEIS OUT 2990 . DAT; 1
                                                                  7
                                                                      3-MAR-1992 18:31
   THEIS OUT 2991 . DAT; 1
                                                                  7
                                                                      3-MAR-1992 18:31
   [THEIS]OUT2992.DAT;1
                                                                 16
                                                                      3-MAR-1992 18:33
   [THEIS]OUT2993.DAT;1
                                                                  8
                                                                      3-MAR-1992 18:34
   [THEIS]OUT2994.DAT;1
                                                                 21
                                                                       3-MAR-1992 18:35
   [THEIS]OUT2995.DAT;1
                                                                       3-MAR-1992 18:35
   [THEIS]OUT2996.DAT:1
                                                                 12
                                                                       3-MAR-1992 18:37
   THEIS OUT 2997 . DAT; 1
                                                                  0
                                                                       3-MAR-1992 18:37
   [THEIS]OUT2998.DAT;1
                                                                  0
                                                                       3-MAR-1992 18:37
   [THEIS]OUT2999.DAT:1
                                                                  20
   [THEIS]OUT3000.DAT;1
```

Total of 972 files, 6441 blocks End of save set To: Ralph Post/ 933.0

NSSDC

From: L. H. Brace/914

Subject: Submission of Pioneer Venus OETP Data to the NSSDC

Attached is a magnetic tape which contains the OETP high resolution data file for orbits 2001 thru 3000 and the related ephemeris data that allows the location of the measurements to be assigned. The data from orbits 1-2000 were submitted earlier.

We are not further updating the OETP UADS file, or the Ionopause and Bow shock location files at this time.

Larry H. Brace

PI, PVOETP

Code 914

1A392026 25333733 25202035 29202036 27202030 2738333 25392020 1A692020 1A692020 1A692020 1A692020 1A692020 1A692020 1A692020 1A692020	1 1	37383333 2E392021	1 A 3 6 2 6 2 6 2 6 2 7 2 7 2 7 2 7 7 7 7 7 7	39282135	373 83333 2F392 n 2n	1 AUC 2 020	2E 343335 39202035	232,2431	392 2 °	33353839 2E353237	w +*	
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1 12					6 2 6 2 6 3 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	20202031	2E392020				(1980)	38
23					18902626	2E33333	77787777				1 4 3	37
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39					2:2:2:2:3:3	2 E 3 52 52 5	323 5343 9		37383333		(88)	
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	LENGTH 8:	
	FILE NO. 1	TAPE NO. 1
	ARE: AS AL 1	INPUT PARAMETERS
	****** KM2017 ************************************	SNOP *********** SEXE TPLIST BS
		***** JOB DONE.
	FILE NO. 1	3 1
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	FILE NO. 1	TAPE NO. 1
3		
	FILE NO. 1	TAPE NO. 1 RECORD 1
	ARE: AS AL 1	INPUT PARAMETERS
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	***** M2:14 ************* D85877	\$NOP *******
		0 808 IN HIQ
	3.3	1
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BACKUP	966	
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	ARE: AS AL 1	INPUT PARAMETERS
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78-051A-00I 78-051A-01E

PIONEER VENUS

HI- RES NE (MIN 1-S)

THIS DATA SET CONSISTS OF 1 TAPE. THE TAPE IS 9-TRACK,, 1600 BPI, VAXED LABELED, WITH 6 FILES OF DATA AND CREATED ON AN 360 IBM COMPUTER. THE DD AND DC NUMBER ALONG WITH THE TIME SPAN IS AS FOLLOWS:

VOLUME LABEL

D-85879=PVOETP

D85879 78-051A-00I,01E

Tape Label PVOETP, Dens=1600
Directory MTAO:[]

READ_ME_FIRST.DOC; 3
TOTAL_EUV_FLUX_AS_IPE.DAT; 1
IONOPAUSE.DAT; 1
BOWSHOCK.DAT; 1
ORBIT.FOR; 1
ORBIT.PVD; 1

Total of 6 files.

Inchi 717	XM2 2 0	N HT1 16 SR=5=1=	2 SKERELES	F TAPE KM2	SRE18=1=2				Par	D-853-19/29106 Planese Vanus
ATA INPUT	+9 NF=1	.8 SR=5=1=2	SR#6#1#2	SR=17=1=2	SF=18=1=2					
FI	LE INPUT	DATA REC	ORUS M		READ E	WMCS SCE		INPUT RE	TELES	
	RECS.	INPU	S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S	ZE	PERM ZERO	B SHOR	UNDEF.	1	OTAL#	
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50 51 51 52	3039313n 20242023	3131313634 216212134 3	393/3131 3141282	45545 ₆ 3 :	36242634	230 12(2) 33313337	8.1EYTES 44232121 3523333	ENGTH 54°E5 36 39313236	4F524049 34363/27	18 RFCORD 454F4631 3:2 3931		52
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